

HISTORY OF
YOLO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

WITH

Biographical Sketches

OF

*The Leading Men and Women of the County Who Have Been
Identified With Its Growth and Development From
the Early Days to the Present*

HISTORY BY

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AND OTHER WELL
KNOWN WRITERS

ILLUSTRATED


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rights for women, the first issue appearing July 7, 1891. Under her management the paper has been an important factor in banishing the open saloon from almost the entire county, and a helpful influence in securing the adoption of the state constitutional amendment giving the ballot to the women of California. Mrs. Huston attributes the success of The Home Alliance largely to the liberal support given it by her co-workers in the W. C. T. U., in the churches, the professional and business men and women of Woodland, and the farmers throughout the county. In the evening of life she is enjoying congenial work and the society of her children, who are all married and settled in their own homes, and of her ten grandchildren. While her business, like all reform work, has not brought great financial gain, she is in possession of what is far better in the satisfaction that comes only from service to God and humanity.



CHARLES ROSSITER HOPPIN

Among the early settlers of Yolo county whose names will ever be kept in grateful remembrance is that of the late Charles Rossiter Hoppin, one of the very first pioneers to embark in the stock industry within the limits of this county, also one of the first to undertake extensive operations as a raiser of grain, and likewise a leading promoter of movements for the local upbuilding. When first his eyes rested upon the environment so familiar to his later activities he beheld a vast stretch of untilled country, apparently suitable only for grazing purposes. Oaks made the landscape beautiful and Cache creek afforded abundant water. Here and there a cattle-ranger's cabin broke the monotony of the view or a herd of stock betokened the presence of cowboys in the vicinity, but for the most part the surroundings presented an aspect wholly primeval. Civilization had not yet shed its benign influence over the fair and fruitful land and nature still held almost undisputed sway. It would have required a far-seeing and optimistic vision to predict the prosperity of the present day, when multitudes of comfortable country homes indicate the presence of a contented throng of progressive agriculturists and fields of waving grain betoken seasons of bountiful harvests. Mr. Hoppin was one who grasped the possibilities of the soil and climate, and was not only one of the first to raise grain, but also alfalfa and fruit. Some of the trees planted by him on the ranch



Chas R Hopkin

in 1853 are still in bearing. In company with others he built the first irrigation ditch, thus utilizing the waters of Cache creek.

Born in New York state, Charles Rossiter Hoppin started on his westward migrations in early life, for he was but a boy when he settled at Niles, Mich., and there he attended the public schools for some years. As soon as he heard of the discovery of gold in California he made preparations to come to the coast, and during the spring of 1849 he joined an expedition which crossed the plains with wagons and oxen. Fair success came to him in the mines, but in a few months he tired of the work, and early in 1850 he came to the ranch in Yolo county that still is owned by the family. With his brother, John, he bought one-fourth of the old Spanish Rancho Rio de Jesus Maria, and also purchased stock to put on the land. In later years he engaged in raising hay and grain. The increase in land valuations and the large returns from the crops made him one of the leading farmers of the county, and he continued active in agriculture until the infirmities of age compelled his entire relinquishment of work.

For a long period after his arrival in the west, Mr. Hoppin remained a bachelor, but eventually he returned to the home of his youth, and there (Niles, Mich.), in 1874, he married Miss Emily Bacon, who was born in that city and received excellent educational advantages at Mount Holyoke Seminary in Kalamazoo, Mich. The family of which she was a member belonged to the honored and influential pioneer element of Michigan, and her father, Hon. Nathaniel Bacon, became one of the leading jurists of the state, being especially prominent in the southwestern part thereof. For years he served as a judge in Branch, Cass and Berrien counties, and often he was called to hold court in other parts of the commonwealth, where his reputation for impartiality and logical reasoning had preceded him. While still rendering distinguished service as a jurist he was stricken with a fatal illness and soon was called by death from the scene of his professional successes.

The family of Charles R. and Emily Hoppin comprised six children, but one of the sons died in infancy and another, Edward, passed from earth in 1900, three years before the demise of the husband and father, who passed away at the old homestead in May of 1903. The eldest son, who is the namesake of his father, occupies a part of the home ranch, and with his wife and three children has a comfortable home on the estate. Harriet, Mrs. August J. Kergel, has two children; her husband farms a portion of the Hoppin estate. Edith married Luther C. Young and remains with her mother, Mr. Young cultivating a portion of the ranch. The youngest child, Dorothea, is a student in Snell's Seminary

at Berkeley. In her religious associations Mrs. Hoppin has been identified from girlhood with the Episcopal Church. Mr. Hoppin was also a devoted church member and contributed generously to missionary causes. After his death Mrs. Hoppin became the manager of the ranch, and in this work she has had the efficient assistance of her sons and sons-in-law, all of whom are skilled farmers and owners of fine herds of Holstein dairy stock. Six hundred and forty acres are under cultivation, and of this tract three hundred acres are irrigated, affording excellent opportunities for the raising of alfalfa and fruit. A vineyard of choice grapes has been made a profitable adjunct of the ranch, and the raising of grain is still followed with noteworthy success.

P. H. MCGARR

One of the enterprising men of Yolo county who has made his home here since 1886, Mr. McGarr is well known throughout Winters and vicinity not only as an orchardist of exceptional ability, but also as a most public-spirited citizen, prompt to lend his efforts toward the progress of the community.

A native of Canada, Mr. McGarr's birth occurred January 6, 1865, in Guelph, where he received his education, spending his youth on the farm of his parents, Patrick and Ann (Cunningham) McGarr, natives of Guelph. At the age of twenty he came to California, successfully conducting a farm in Solano county for eleven years prior to his removal to Yolo county, where he has since been engaged in fruit raising. For many years he leased an orchard in the vicinity of Winters, but in the fall of 1911 he accepted the position of foreman for M. Kahn, having charge of his large orchard, located three miles west of Winters, to which he gives his undivided time.

In Woodland, February 29, 1892, Mr. McGarr was united in marriage with Miss Mary L. Baker, whose birth occurred in Solano county, and whose parents crossed the plains from Illinois in the early '50s. She died in September, 1907. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. McGarr, as follows: Francis L., Henry H. (both of Winters), Edith M., William D., Clark A. and Raymond P., the four last mentioned residing at home. Mr. McGarr's second marriage occurred in San Francisco and united him with Mary Gotellie, a native of Italy, who by a former marriage had three children, Anthony, Joseph and Louis. A Republican in politics, Mr. McGarr is a broad minded and generous citizen, interested in all public movements of merit. He is a communicant of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, as are also his wife and family.